

**Proposal  
Solicitation and  
Application  
Package**

**Local  
Groundwater  
Assistance Fund**

March 21, 2001

## **Local Groundwater Assistance Fund**

### **Proposal Solicitation Package**

**March 21, 2001**

The Department of Water Resources invites local agencies to submit proposals for groundwater management project grants from the Local Groundwater Assistance Fund, which was established by the Local Groundwater Management Assistance Act of 2000 (AB 303).

### **Proposal Due Date:**

**MUST BE RECEIVED (NOT POST-MARKED)  
BY 3:00 P.M., May 3, 2001.**

### **Submit Proposals to:**

Christina Kuo  
California Department of Water Resources  
1020 Ninth Street, Third Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Telephone: (916) 445-4707

Submit one original, five copies, and one electronic copy of the proposal on a 3.5-inch disk or CD in software that is Microsoft Word compatible.

### **Questions? Written questions may be submitted by March 29, 2001, to:**

Carl Hauge  
California Department of Water Resources  
1020 Ninth Street, Third Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 327-8861, or  
[chauge@water.ca.gov](mailto:chauge@water.ca.gov)

Questions submitted by March 27, 2001, will be addressed at the public workshops.

An electronic version of this package, is available from the Department's Web site at [www.water.ca.gov/](http://www.water.ca.gov/). For copies in an alternative format, please contact Stephanie Davis at (916) 327-1624 or [sdavis@water.ca.gov](mailto:sdavis@water.ca.gov), or call our Office of Water Education at 1-800-277-8869.

# **Table of Contents**

<b>1-Background of the Local Groundwater Assistance Fund</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2-Local Groundwater Management Assistance Act Goals</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3-Local Groundwater Assistance Fund Priorities</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>4-Selection Criteria</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>5-Proposal Evaluation, Selection, and Award Process</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>6-Applicant Eligibility</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>7-Proposal Package Content</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Attachment A - Technical Advisory Panel Selection and Scoring Criteria</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Attachment B - Local Groundwater Assistance Grant Application (First page of proposal package)</b>	<b>7</b>

# **1-Background of the Local Groundwater Assistance Fund**

The Local Groundwater Management Assistance Act of 2000 (AB 303, Stats. Of 2000, Ch. 708) authorizes grants for local public agencies to study groundwater resources throughout the State. The Act, which adds Section 10795, et seq. to the California Water Code, creates the Local Groundwater Assistance Fund. Upon appropriation by the State Legislature, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) will award grants to local agencies to conduct groundwater studies or to implement groundwater monitoring and management activities. This Proposal Solicitation Package is being released in anticipation of a subsequent appropriation of funding by the Legislature.

All proposed studies and projects, whether within or outside the CALFED solution area, are equally eligible for funding under the Local Groundwater Assistance Program.

The local groundwater management assistance studies and projects funded within the CALFED solution area will be implemented by DWR in a manner that is consistent with the goals and objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. The CALFED plan is described in the CALFED Bay-Delta Programmatic Record of Decision (ROD), issued on August 28, 2000. The CALFED ROD is available on the CALFED website at <http://calfed.ca.gov/>.

## **2-Local Groundwater Management Assistance Act Goals**

The goal of the Local Groundwater Management Assistance Act of 2000 is to help local agencies better understand how to manage groundwater resources effectively to ensure the safe production, quality, and proper storage of groundwater in the State.

## **3-Local Groundwater Assistance Fund Priorities**

Grants will be awarded for groundwater studies and projects that will contribute to basin and subbasin management objectives, including, but not limited to:

### **A. Groundwater monitoring:**

1. Develop and implement a groundwater monitoring program.
2. Install monitoring wells and extensometers.
3. Monitor groundwater quality, water levels, and subsidence.

### **B. Groundwater basin management:**

1. Planned use of a basin's storage space, transmission capability, and yield.
2. Protection of natural recharge and use of artificial recharge.
3. Planned variations in amount and locations of pumping over time.
4. Coordinated use and planned operation of both groundwater and surface water from local and imported sources (conjunctive use).
5. Protection and planned maintenance of groundwater quality.
6. Evaluation of potential third-party impacts that may be related to groundwater management.

### **C. Groundwater studies:**

1. Collect and evaluate any type of data related to water management, such as: stream flows; subsurface geological, geohydrological and/or geophysical characteristics; potential recharge sites; groundwater quality; subsidence; and water well monitoring.
2. Study basin-wide groundwater management scenarios.
3. Conduct groundwater modeling.
4. Develop a Geographic Information System or other data management system for storage and evaluation of data.

DWR will allocate funds (1) in a geographically balanced manner among the regions of the State that are capable of, and interested in implementing groundwater management programs; and (2) to applicants whose projects can be completed with the funds requested or where evidence of additional funding from other sources is provided. All applications submitted for a grant from the Local Groundwater Assistance Fund will be considered for funding; however, no single applicant will receive more than \$250,000.

Priority will be given to local public agencies that: (1) have adopted and implemented a groundwater management plan, or other formalized basin-wide planning program for its groundwater resources; and (2) demonstrate collaboration with other local public agencies regarding management of their groundwater basin or subbasin.

“Basin-Wide Planning” means a comprehensive approach for the planned management of groundwater and surface water resources within a groundwater basin or subbasin. This approach involves (1) input, collaboration, and broad-based support among basin stakeholder groups and Indian tribes; and (2) identification and resolution of related issues, impacts, and specific projects and goals for the basin. Stakeholder groups could include local and governmental agencies, low-income and minority communities, water districts, and agricultural, environmental, and economic interests.

## 4-Selection Criteria

DWR will evaluate proposals according to the following criteria (see definitions, Attachment A):

- A. Readiness to proceed.
- B.
  - 1. Quality and effectiveness of an existing Groundwater Management Plan, OR
  - 2. Quality and effectiveness of a proposed Groundwater Management Plan.

- C. Outreach, education, and community involvement.
- D. Quantity and quality of information to be gained by the proposed project.
- E. Quality of plan for use of information gained from the proposed project.
- F. Technical feasibility and scientific merit.

## 5-Proposal Evaluation, Selection, and Award Process

A Technical Advisory Panel (Panel), appointed by the Secretary of The Resources Agency, will evaluate applications based on the selection criteria in Section 4.

In addition to criteria previously listed, additional consideration will be given to applications that ensure geographic balance and applications that, overall, provide multiple water resource benefits.

Additional clarification or further explanation of certain aspects of a proposed project may be required, including evidence that the local agency applicant is capable of and committed to implementing a groundwater management program and has collaborated with other local public agencies regarding the proposed project and management of the groundwater basin. Applicants will be notified if additional documentation is required during the evaluation of proposals and administration of this fund.

The Panel will present its funding recommendations to DWR, which will make final grant determinations.

Grant awards will be made directly to the successful local agency applicant after a contract has been executed. The target date for awarding grants is June 30, 2001.

The schedule for this process is as follows:

3/21/01	Proposal Solicitation Package available to the public
3/29/01	Submit written questions
4/03/01	Ontario Public Workshop
4/06/01	Fresno Public Workshop
4/10/01	Chico Public Workshop
5/03/01	Proposals Due
5/16/01	Technical review and preliminary ranking by DWR
5/21/01	Panel convenes, reviews and prioritizes projects
6/1/01	Panel submits recommendations to DWR
6/5/01	CALFED makes recommendations to DWR
6/11/01	DWR makes final selections and announces results.
6/21/01	Contracts executed and funds obligated by DWR.

This schedule is subject to change, pending appropriation of funding by the State Legislature.

Workshops will be from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the following locations:

Ontario Airport Hilton  
700 North Haven Avenue  
Ontario, California 91764

Fresno State Building  
2550 Mariposa Mall, Room 1036  
Fresno, California 93726

Chico Area Recreation and Park District  
545 Vallombrosa Avenue  
Chico, California 95926

Contact Christina Kuo, at (916) 445-4707 or [ckuo@water.ca.gov](mailto:ckuo@water.ca.gov) for further information regarding the workshops.

Please request sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, materials in alternative formats or other accommodations for the workshops by calling Stephanie Davis at (916) 327-1624, or faxing her at (916) 327-1648, at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting you will

attend; or you may call DWR on our TDD line: (916) 653-6934, or the DWR Office of Water Education toll-free line: 1-800-277-8869.

## 6-Applicant Eligibility

Applications for grants will be accepted only from local public agencies, including city, county, city and county, water district, regional agency, board, commission, or other political subdivision of the State.

## 7-Proposal Package Content

A completed proposal package must be received (not postmarked) no later than **3:00 p.m., May 3, 2001**, at the Conjunctive Water Management Branch, Department of Water Resources, Attention: Christina Kuo, 1020 Ninth Street, Sacramento, California 95814. Late proposal packages will be ineligible for funding. A completed package consists of the following attachments to the Local Groundwater Assistance Fund Grant Application (see Attachment B):

### I. GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

- A. Submission of an adopted groundwater management plan, if any.
- B.
  1. If applicant has a completed basin-wide groundwater management plan, provide a statement of support signed by basin stakeholders, including potentially impacted low-income and minority communities, and tribes overlying or using the groundwater basin.
  2. If a basin-wide groundwater management plan is not currently completed, provide a detailed narrative description of efforts to develop a basin-wide plan, including issues, impacts, objectives, goals, and public agency resolutions for the basin, demonstrating the level of efforts and progress that the applicant has made and the approach to completing the plan, if any.
- C. A description (2 pages or less) of milestones occurring within the basin or subbasin since the adoption of a groundwater management plan, or those that are projected to occur

after the adoption of a proposed groundwater management plan.

- D. Information demonstrating the agency's ability and interest in implementing a groundwater management program.

## II. PUBLIC OUTREACH

Evidence of any educational, outreach or community involvement activities within the groundwater basin, including evidence of support from basin stakeholders with regard to a basin-wide management plan and to the proposed project, including the names of interested parties and organizations and contact persons, and a summary of the goals and results of such collaborative efforts.

## III. PROJECT WORK PLAN

- A. A description of the need for the proposed project.
- B. A detailed study, monitoring or management Project Work Plan describing:
  - 1. Scope,
  - 2. Specific goals and objectives,
  - 3. Budget, including other funding sources, if any,
  - 4. Schedule, and
  - 5. Project deliverables for assessing progress and accomplishments.

### 7.1-Other Grant Requirements

*Environmental Compliance:* All projects funded under this solicitation package must comply, as appropriate, with the National Environmental Policy Act, the California Environmental Quality Act and other environmental requirements such as the State and Federal Endangered Species Acts, Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. Project compliance is the responsibility of the project proponent. You may contact Harley H. Davis at (916) 327-1808 or e-mail [harley@water.ca.gov](mailto:harley@water.ca.gov) if you have questions regarding environmental compliance.

*Grant Contracts:* All grant recipients must first sign a contract with DWR before the State can disburse grant money. Funds will be disbursed in accordance with the executed contract.

*Data Collection Reports:* All data collected pursuant to the grant must be submitted to DWR in written and electronic format for possible inclusion in Bulletin 118, California's Groundwater, and Bulletin 160, California Water Plan Update. A final report is required on completion of the project, prior to final payment under the contract.

*No confidentiality:* All information submitted by applicants is public. By submitting a proposal, the applicant waives any rights to confidentiality and privacy of the proposal. Applications may be posted on DWR and/or CALFED websites or otherwise publicly disclosed.

# Attachment A

## Project Selection Criteria

### Definitions of Selection Criteria:

- A. Readiness to proceed:** The applicant's goals and objectives have been established, and the project is ready to go forward in less than six months - rank high, six to nine months - rank medium, or greater than nine months - rank low.
- B. 1. Quality and effectiveness of an existing Groundwater Management Plan:** (a) Has the existing plan achieved its original goals and objectives? (b) Has applicant provided a statement of support signed by all basin stakeholders? (c) Has the plan demonstrated an increased knowledge regarding basin characteristics? (d) Are dispute-resolution mechanisms in place, and if so have they worked? Rank high if all four conditions have been met. Rank medium if two or three of these conditions have been met. Rank low if one or none of these conditions have been met; OR
- 2. Quality and completeness of a proposed Groundwater Management Plan:** Has the applicant produced a comprehensive basin-wide plan, including but not limited to (a) goals and objectives, (b) an established timeline, (c) review of current information about basin conditions, (d) a decided management form, (e) a signed statement of support by all stakeholders and coplanners. Rank high if five conditions have been met. Rank medium if three or four of these conditions have been met. Rank low if two or less of these conditions have been met.
- C. Outreach, Education and Community Involvement:** Does the applicant (a) demonstrate a strong commitment to consensus building among groundwater users and stakeholders in their basin; (b) include documentation regarding support among stakeholders for the proposed project; and (c) demonstrated engagement with public involvement through workshops, mail outs or other means? Rank high if all three conditions are documented. Rank medium if two conditions are documented. Rank low if one or none of the conditions are documented.
- D. Quantity and quality of information to be gained from proposed project:** Does the proposal (a) demonstrate an achievable quantity of new knowledge concerning groundwater management in the basin; and (b) indicate that good quality information will be obtained? Rank high if both achievable quantity and good quality measures are indicated. Rank medium if only achievable quantity or good quality measures are indicated. Rank low if quantity/quality measures are lacking.
- E. Quality of plan for use of information gained from proposed project:** Does the applicant (a) currently have an ongoing strategy to monitor the status of its basin; (b) indicate how the information gained will meet the project goals and objectives; and (c) how it will disseminate the information to interested parties? Rank high if all three conditions are met. Rank medium if two are met. Rank low if one or none are met.
- F. Technical feasibility and scientific merit:** Does the applicant's proposal demonstrate technical feasibility and scientific merit? For the purposes of this proposal package, "technical feasibility" means the proposed project can be designed and operated in accordance with generally accepted hydrogeologic principles and concepts governing the occurrence, movement, and quality of groundwater; and "scientific merit" means the proposed project is based on common scientific principles and will result in information and data that can be used to improve groundwater management. Rank high if the proposed project is both technically feasible and has scientific merit. Rank medium if only one of the two conditions is demonstrated. Rank low if neither condition is demonstrated.

**Table 1**  
**Scoring of Selection Criteria**

Criteria	Low (0)	Medium (1)	High (2)	Multiplier	Total Score
A. Readiness to proceed				2	
B. 1. Quality and effectiveness of an existing Groundwater Management Plan; OR				2	
B. 2. Quality and completeness of a proposed Groundwater Management Plan				1	
C. Outreach, education and community involvement				2	
D. Quantity and quality of information to be gained by the proposed project				1	
E. Quality of plan for use of information gained from the proposed project				2	
F. Technical feasibility and scientific merit				1	
TOTAL SCORE					

Up to five additional points may be given to projects that ensure geographic balance and provide overall multiple water resource benefits.

## Attachment B

# LOCAL GROUNDWATER ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATION Under Local Groundwater Management Assistance Act of 2000 (AB 303)

### (First page of Proposal package)

Proposal Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorization: Water Code Section: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person/title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Groundwater Management Plan adopted, if any:

\_\_\_\_\_ Pursuant to Water Code Section: \_\_\_\_\_

or other legal authority: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of grant requested: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Duration of project: \_\_\_\_\_

Location and geographic boundaries of the proposed project: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

DWR Bulletin 118-80 Study Area Name \_\_\_\_\_ Basin Number \_\_\_\_\_

Attachments (see pages 4-5):

- \_\_\_ 1.A. Groundwater Management Plan and signed statement of support, if any.
- \_\_\_ 1.B. Evidence of collaboration in a plan with stakeholders within the basin.
- \_\_\_ 1.C. Description of accomplishments under a Groundwater Management Plan.
- \_\_\_ 1.D. Information demonstrating the agency's ability and interest in implementing a basin-wide groundwater management program.
- \_\_\_ II. Evidence of education, outreach or community involvement activities.
- \_\_\_ III.A. Description of need for the proposed project.
- \_\_\_ III.B. Project Work Plan.